

**CALIFORNIA STATE
LANDS COMMISSION**

CRUZ M. BUSTAMANTE, *Lieutenant Governor*
STEVE WESTLY, *Controller*
MICHAEL C GENEST, *Director of Finance*



EXECUTIVE OFFICE
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

PAUL D. THAYER, Executive Officer
(916) 574-1800 Fax (916) 574-1810
California Relay Service TDD Phone 1-800-735-2929
Voice Phone 1-800-735-2922

STAFF PROPOSED**RESOLUTION BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
REGARDING ONCE THROUGH COOLING IN CALIFORNIA POWER PLANTS**

WHEREAS, The California State Lands Commission and legislative grantees of public trust lands are responsible for the administering and protecting the public trust lands underlying the navigable waters of the state, which are held in trust for the people of California; and

WHEREAS, the public trust lands are vital to the recreational, economic and environmental values of California's coast and ocean; and

WHEREAS, the commission has aggressively sought correction of adverse impacts on the biological productivity of its lands including, litigation over contamination off the Palos Verdes Peninsula and at Iron Mountain, the adoption of best management practices for marinas and litigation to restore flows to the Owens River; and

WHEREAS, California has twenty-one coastal power plants which use once-through cooling, the majority of which are located on bays and estuaries where sensitive fish nurseries for many important species are located; and

WHEREAS, these power plants are authorized to withdraw and discharge approximately 16.7 billion gallons of ocean water daily; and

WHEREAS, once-through cooling harms the environment by killing large numbers of fish and other wildlife, larvae and eggs as they are drawn through fish screens and other parts of the power plant cooling system; and

WHEREAS, once through cooling also adversely affects the coastal environment by raising the temperature of adjacent water, killing and displacing wildlife and plant life; and

WHEREAS, various studies have documented the harm caused by once-through cooling including one study that estimated that 2.2 million fish were annually ingested into eight southern California power plants during the late 1970s and another that estimated that 57 tons of fish were killed annually when all of the units of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station were operating; and

WHEREAS, regulations adopted under Section 316 (b) of the federal Clean Water Act recognize the adverse impacts of once-through cooling by effectively prohibiting new power plants from using such systems; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Ocean Action Plan calls for an increase in the abundance and diversity of aquatic life in California's oceans, bays, estuaries and coastal wetlands, a goal which can be better met by eliminating the impacts of once-through cooling; and

WHEREAS, members of the California Ocean Protection Council have called for consideration of a policy at its next meeting to discourage once-through cooling; and

WHEREAS, the California Energy Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board have the authority and jurisdiction over the design of power plants and are conducting studies into alternatives to once-through cooling, such as air cooling, cooling with treated wastewater or recycled water and cooling towers; and

WHEREAS, in its 2005 Integrated Energy and Policy Report , the California Energy Commission adopted a recommendation to work with other agencies to improve assessment of the ecological impacts of once-through cooling and to develop a better approach to the use of best-available retrofit technologies; and

WHEREAS, the Commission recognizes that the coastal power plants currently utilizing once-through cooling make an important contribution to California's energy supply, but believes that the elimination of these cooling systems, through conservation, conversion, construction of new facilities, or utilization of other sources can be feasible and will be facilitated by establishing a deadline for this to occur; therefore, be it

Resolved by the California State Lands Commission that it urges the California Energy Commission and the State Water Resources Control Board to expeditiously complete all necessary studies and develop policies that eliminate once-through cooling from all new and existing power plants in California; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission shall not approve new leases or extensions of existing leases for facilities associated with once-through cooling after 2020 and calls on public grantees of public trust lands to implement the same policy for facilities within their jurisdiction; and be it further

Resolved, that the Commission's Executive Officer transmit copies of this resolution to the Chairs of the State Water Resources Control Board, the California Energy Commission, and the California Ocean Protection Council, all grantees, and all current lessees of public trust lands that utilize once-through cooling.